

Amtrak *Cascades* Stations and Plans for Improvement

Train stations around the nation are being restored, renovated, and retaking their places as important community assets. The train stations served by the Amtrak *Cascades* are no exception. The Amtrak *Cascades* serves 11 cities in western Washington each day. The Amtrak *Cascades* also serves four stations in Oregon, and Pacific Central Station in Vancouver, B.C. Many of the train stations along the rail line have been renovated and combine the look and feel of train stations from an earlier era with the amenities and services people expect today. Other communities are in the process of constructing new stations, while others are working hard to carry out long-anticipated station upgrades.

Since the early 1990s, WSDOT, Amtrak, the federal government, and local leaders have continued to work together to improve the quality of train stations served by the Amtrak *Cascades*. Here's an update on recent train station improvements along the Amtrak *Cascades* rail corridor—and the latest plans for the years ahead.

Stations inside of Washington State

Vancouver Station – Vancouver, Washington

Station Background:

Vancouver's train station was constructed in 1908, expanded in 1917, and partially renovated in 1988. The station was recently purchased by the City of Vancouver.

Station Amenities:

Amenities include restrooms, telephones, vending machines, and a staffed ticket office.

[Learn more](#) about this station and Vancouver, WA.



Vancouver Amtrak Station.

Train Service:

Ten Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades*, *Coast Starlight*, and *Empire Builder*. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

In early 2003 a new passenger information system will be placed in the station and on the platform, giving rail passengers access to real time train arrival and departure information. Additional renovations are planned, including upgrades to the station's seating area, exterior, and second level. The completion date for these improvements will be announced when local leaders reach consensus on final design.

Kelso Multimodal Transportation Center – Kelso/Longview, Washington

Station Background:

Kelso's train station was built in 1911 and extensively renovated in 1995. The station is owned by the City of Kelso and also serves as the area's Greyhound bus terminal.

Station Amenities:

Amenities include restrooms, telephones, vending machines, a QuikTrak automated ticket machine, bicycle lockers, and public meeting spaces on the lower level. Community Urban Bus System (CUBS) transit and local taxis stop on the east side of the station. [Learn more](#) about this station and Kelso.



Kelso Station.

Train Service:

Eight Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Coast Starlight*. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

In early 2003 a new passenger information system will be placed in the station and on the platform, giving rail passengers access to real time train arrival and departure information.

Centralia Railroad Depot – Centralia, Washington

Station Background:

The historic Centralia Railroad Depot was constructed in 1912. The station is owned by the City of Centralia. Major upgrades to the station were completed in 2002. Improvements include restoration of the building's interior, new office spaces on the station's second floor, upgraded restrooms, an elevator, and the creation of new meeting areas for community events.

Station Amenities:

Amenities include a vending machine, a telephone, and a staffed ticket office. An adjacent streetscape improvement project was also recently completed. Twin City Transit and local taxis stop on the station's west side. [Learn more](#) about this station and Centralia.



Centralia Station platform.

Train Service:

Eight Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Coast Starlight*. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

The city has plans to add a small restaurant in the south end of the station. When funding is available, the new real-time passenger information system will be added to the station's waiting area and the platform.

Centennial Station – Olympia-Lacey, Washington

Station Background:

Centennial Station first opened in 1992. The facility is owned and served by the county's local transit agency, Intercity Transit, and is staffed entirely by local volunteers.

Station Amenities:

Amenities include restrooms, vending machines, a telephone, a QuikTrak automated ticket machine, and bicycle lockers. [Learn more](#) about this station and Olympia-Lacey.



Centennial Station.

Train Service:

Eight Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Coast Starlight*. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

Planned improvements include a new passenger platform and the installation of the real-time passenger information system when funding becomes available.

Tacoma Amtrak Station – Tacoma, Washington

Station Background:

Tacoma's Amtrak station was constructed in 1984 and is owned by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

Station Amenities:

Station amenities include restrooms, a telephone, vending machines, a QuikTrak automated ticket machine, and a staffed ticket office. Greyhound bus service stops at the Tacoma Dome park and ride lot. [Learn more](#) about this station and Tacoma.

Train Service:

Eight Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Coast Starlight*.¹ [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

In the years ahead, the Amtrak *Cascades* will be relocating from this facility to historic Freighthouse Square, which is approximately six blocks east and adjacent to the Tacoma Dome. Before Amtrak *Cascades* relocates to Freighthouse Square, Sound Transit will begin using this location for *Sounder* commuter trains, expanded *Regional Express* bus service, and *Link* light rail. The new multi-modal transportation hub will be known as Tacoma Dome Station.



Entrance to concourse of Freighthouse Square, future home of Amtrak *Cascades* and Sound Transit's *Sounder* Commuter Rail.

Tukwila Station – Tukwila Washington

Station Background:

Tukwila's temporary train station opened in 2001. Sound Transit owns this facility, which consists of two wooden platforms with shelters. The Tukwila Station serves both *Sounder* commuter trains and Amtrak *Cascades*.

Station Amenities:

None. [Learn more](#) about this station and Tukwila.

Train Service:

Six Amtrak *Cascades* trains serve the station each day. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)



Temporary platform at Tukwila Station.

¹ *Sounder* commuter trains are not accessible from the Tacoma Amtrak Station. The entrance to the *Sounder* stop is approximately ¼ mile to the south.

Additionally, 6 *Sounder* commuter trains serve the station each weekday (M-F).²

Future Plans:

Sound Transit and the cities of Renton and Tukwila are working together to develop plans for a new, permanent station. The new intercity and commuter station is likely to become one of the busiest train stations in Washington, as it will serve as the gateway to the heavily-populated east side of Lake Washington and the nearby Sea-Tac International Airport.

King Street Station – Seattle, Washington

Station Background:

Seattle's King Street Station was constructed in 1906 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company owns the facility. The interior of the station was remodeled in 1950 and again in 1964. [Learn more](#) about King Street Station.

Station Amenities:

Amenities include restrooms, vending machines, telephones, two QuikTrak automated ticket machines, and a staffed ticket office. Local, regional, Amtrak Thruway, and intercity bus services operate at or near the station. [Learn more](#) about this station and Seattle.



King Street Station.

Train Service:

Fourteen Amtrak trains currently serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades*, *Coast Starlight*, and *Empire Builder*. [Information on schedules and fares](#).

Six *Sounder* commuter trains serve the station each weekday (M-F).

² Amtrak's long-distance *Coast Starlight* does not stop in Tukwila.

Future Plans:

For the latest on the highly anticipated renovation of King Street Station, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/rail/transit/kss/default.cfm.

Edmonds Station – Edmonds, Washington

Station Background:

Edmonds Station is near the city's waterfront and is owned by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company.

Station Amenities:

Amenities include restrooms, a telephone, vending machines, and a staffed ticket office. Community Transit provides transit service and the Washington State Ferry Terminal is three blocks north of the station. [Learn more](#) about this station and Edmonds.



Edmonds Amtrak Station.

Train Service:

Six Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Empire Builder*. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

Future plans call for a new multi-modal station that combines local and regional transit, commuter rail, intercity rail, and the Washington State Ferries. The new facility will be just south of the current train station at Point Edwards and is projected to cost over \$160 million. Construction will start when regional, state, and federal funding is secured. A completion date has not yet been set.

Everett Station – Everett, Washington

Station Background:

The Everett Station is the newest train station in Washington. The city-owned, four-story structure hosts local and regional transit, Greyhound, and the University Centers of North Puget Sound and Worksource Everett.

Station Amenities:

Station amenities include restrooms, phones, a café, an espresso cart, an events center, art displays, an Everett Transit customer service office, and a staffed Amtrak ticket office. [Learn more](#) about this station and Everett.



Everett Station entrance.

Train Service:

Six Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Empire Builder*. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

The station will also become the northernmost terminal for *Sounder* commuter rail. Planned improvements include track and platforms for commuter trains, expanded parking, and installation of a real-time passenger information system when funding becomes available.

Mount Vernon/Burlington Station – Mount Vernon, Washington

Station Background:

A temporary station is located on College Way and consists of a platform and a Skagit Area Transit (SKAT) bus shelter.

Station Amenities:

None. [Learn more](#) about this station and Mount Vernon.

Train Service:

Four Amtrak *Cascades* trains serve the station each day. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

Future plans call for a new downtown station that will host local and regional transit, public meeting spaces, and will include expanded parking facilities. The tentative completion date for the new downtown station is 2004.



Mount Vernon Station.



Conceptual Drawing of Future Station

Fairhaven Station – Bellingham, Washington

Station Background:

The Fairhaven Station is located a few blocks west of Bellingham's historic Fairhaven District. The building—the former headquarters of the Pacific American Fisheries Co.—underwent extensive renovations in 1994. The station is owned by the Port of Bellingham and is part of the Bellingham Fairhaven Cruise Terminal Complex.

Station Amenities:

Amenities include restrooms, vending machines, a small coffee shop, office space, a QuikTrak automated ticket machine, and a staffed ticket office. The facility also serves as Bellingham's Greyhound station, with local bus service provided by the Whatcom Transit Authority. [Learn more](#) about this station and Bellingham.



Fairhaven Station and parking lot.

Train Service:

Four Amtrak *Cascades* trains serve the station each day. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

The new real-time passenger information system will be installed when funding becomes available.

Stations outside of Washington

Eugene Railroad Station – Eugene/Springfield, Oregon

Station Background:

The historic Eugene Railroad Station was constructed in 1908. The station was recently acquired by the City of Eugene. Renovation work on the structure is expected to begin this year. The station is located in downtown Eugene at the foot of Willamette Street.



The existing Railway Station building and Express Building (source: City of Eugene)

Station Amenities:

Station amenities include restrooms, telephones, vending machines, a staffed ticket office, and a QuikTrak automated ticket machine. Amtrak Thruway bus service stop in front of the station. Passengers may board regional Lane Transit buses and *The Breeze* shuttle buses one block from the station on 5th Street. [Learn more](#) about this station and Eugene.

Train Service:

Six Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Coast Starlight*. [Information on schedules and fares](#).

Future Plans:

In early 2003, a new passenger information system will be placed in the station and on the platform, giving rail passengers access to real time train and Amtrak Thruway bus arrival and departure information. When funding becomes available several improvements are planned. These include new streets to improve motor vehicle traffic flow, an intercity bus station, and a layover facility for Amtrak *Cascades* trains that terminate here.

Albany Railroad Station – Albany, Oregon

Station Background:

The 1909 Albany Railroad Station is being developed into a multi-modal transportation facility by the City of Albany. Amtrak currently shares the station with the Willamette & Pacific Railroad, occupying about one fourth of the space. In the next few months the tenants will be relocated so that the building and grounds can receive a much needed restoration.



Albany Railroad Station (Photo by John Cooper; Source <http://lib2.clark.cc.oh.us/amtrak/amtStationAB.html>).

Station Amenities:

Station amenities include restrooms, telephones, vending machines, and a staffed ticket office. Transit and Amtrak Thruway buses as well as local taxis stop in front of the station each day. This station is the gateway to the City of Corvallis, home of Oregon State University. [Learn more](#) about this station and Albany.

Train Service:

Six Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Coast Starlight*. [Information on schedules and fares](#).

Future Plans:

In early 2003, a new passenger information system will be placed in the station and on the platform, giving rail passengers access to real time train and Amtrak Thruway bus arrival and departure information.

Salem Railroad Station – Salem, Oregon

Station Background:

The historic Salem Railroad Station, constructed in 1918, is a classic style Southern Pacific station. The station is owned by the state of Oregon. Renovation of the station was completed in 2000. Improvements include restoration of the building's interior, upgraded restrooms, raised train platforms, expanded parking, and landscaping.

Station Amenities:

Station amenities include telephones, vending machines, and a staffed ticket office. Local taxis, and regional CARTS buses stop on the station site each day. Stops for Salem Area Transit buses are located on Mill Street, north of the station parking lot. Amtrak Thruway buses stop in front of the station. [Learn more](#) about this station and Salem.



Salem Railroad Station.

Train Service:

Six Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades* and *Coast Starlight*. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

In early 2003 a new passenger information system will be placed in the station and on the platform, giving rail passengers access to real time train and Amtrak Thruway bus arrival and departure information.

Coming Soon – Oregon City, Oregon

Station Background:

This station is being developed on city-owned property by Oregon City. Initially, the station will consist of a raised train platform, passenger shelters, lighting, a telephone, and paved parking. There are plans to move the original Oregon City Railroad Station building onto the site to serve as the waiting room. This building will also provide office space for local businesses. Most of the design and permit work for this project has been completed. Construction is expected to begin in mid 2003.

Station Amenities:

To be announced.

Train Service:

Amtrak service is anticipated to start in the autumn of 2003. Four Amtrak *Cascades* trains will serve this station daily. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

Future Plans:

See *Station Background*.

Union Station – Portland, Oregon

Station Background:

Portland Union Station is one of the finest train stations in the Pacific Northwest. This beautifully restored 1896 structure, with its landmark red

brick clock tower, has been used nationally as an example of a successful station renovation project. The City of Portland owns and manages the station.

Station Amenities:

Station amenities include restrooms, telephones, vending machines, newstand, restaurant, staffed ticket office, and QuikTrak automated ticket machine. [Learn more](#) about this station and Portland.



Union Station (Photo by Christopher Fussell; Source <http://lib2.clark.cc.oh.us/amtrak/amtStationNS.html>).

Portland Union Station is in the “Fareless Square” zone for city buses. The Tri-Met stop for free bus service to downtown Portland is located about 600 feet from the station entrance. Amtrak Thruway bus service stops in front of station. The Greyhound Bus Depot is located one block from Portland Union Station.

Train Service:

Eleven Amtrak trains serve the station each day, including Amtrak *Cascades*, *Coast Starlight*, and *Empire Builder*. [Information on schedules and fares](#).

The new *Lewis & Clark Explorer Train* will provide a daily seasonal round trip from May 23 through September 2, 2003 (*Portland - Astoria*).

Future Plans:

In early 2003 a new passenger information system will be placed in the station and on the platform, giving rail passengers access to real time train and Amtrak Thruway bus arrival and departure information. Future planned station improvements will include streetscape work in front of the station, bus bays for Amtrak Thruway services, raised train platforms, seismic retrofits and improvements to the building’s utility and mechanical systems.

Pacific Central Station — Vancouver, British Columbia

Station Background:

The Canadian National Railway constructed Pacific Central Station in 1919. In the late 1980s, the station underwent a major renovation. Amtrak began serving the station in 1995 after a 14-year hiatus. Pacific Central Station is also the western end point of VIA Rail, Canada's passenger train.

Station Amenities:

The station has restrooms, a restaurant, a money exchange office, a newsstand, an espresso bar, a gift shop, a car rental office, and connections to local transit, Amtrak Thruway, and regional intercity bus services.



Pacific Central Station (Source: <http://www.bcpassport.com/transportation/trains.html>).

Pacific Central Station is also the western end point of VIA Rail, Canada's national passenger train. Vancouver's SkyTrain has a stop a few hundred meters from the train station. [Learn more](#) about this station and Vancouver, B.C.

Train Service:

Amtrak *Cascades* offer one arrival and one departure each day. [Information on schedules and fares.](#)

VIA Rail offers three arrivals and three departures each week.

Future Plans:

Station improvements being considered, which are dependent on funding availability, include a new canopy above the train platform that will protect arriving passengers as they await clearance by Canadian Customs and Immigration.